

RFP: Geriatric Services Demonstration Project

OVERVIEW

On April 15th, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development of a “Partnership to Support Aging in Place in Communities Severely Impacted by COVID-19.” This program will support adults age 55 and older to age in place, either in OMH supportive housing or other community located housing where older adults reside. The program model will require the development of formal partnerships between the primary applicant (an OMH-licensed provider), and both a New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) provider and the New York State Office for Aging (SOFA) local Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

OMH intends to award a total of \$9 million to at least six applicants through this program. Applicants may propose to expand or enhance existing programs or to develop a new program that meets all program requirements.

The full RFP is available [here](#). Applicants must submit a letter of intent by June 3rd, and applications are due on June 16th.

FUNDING

OMH will award a minimum of six applicants up to \$300,000 annually. Contracts will last for five years, beginning on January 1, 2022.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are:

- Not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agencies that are funded or licensed by OMH; or
- Local government units in New York State.

Agencies that do not meet eligible applicant criteria may partner with an eligible applicant. Applicants will be required to submit Letters of Commitment that identify partnership responsibilities and outline financial arrangements between partners. There is no specific limit to the number of service providers that may constitute a partnership, but there must be at least one provider from each of the three core service areas (mental health, substance use, and aging services).

TARGET POPULATION

Applicants must focus their proposal on serving **one** of the following target populations:

- **Group 1:** Adults, age 55 and older, residing in OMH supportive housing (permanent housing to include scattered site supportive housing, single site supported housing, supportive single room occupancy, and mixed use/affordable housing) who have a primary diagnosis of serious mental illness that has a substantial impact on their ability to function independently in the community.
- **Group 2:** Adults, age 55 and older, residing in any other community located housing (private residence, senior housing, affordable mixed-use housing, or other living situation) who may:
 - Be unconnected or inconsistently connected to the system or care;
 - Have diagnosed, undiagnosed, or subacute behavioral health issues; and/or

- Have chronic medical conditions and may be at risk in the community.
- **Group 3:** 50 percent of individuals in Group 1 (residing in OMH supportive housing) and 50 percent of individuals in Group 2 (residing in other community located housing).

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Each “Partnership” Program is required to:

- Create a partnership of providers from three core services: mental health services, substance use services and supports, and aging services;
- Identify (through an in-depth community needs analysis) and serve the target population;
- Provide mobile outreach and off-site services;
- Provide behavioral health services;
- Access aging services through formal partnership with local AAA;
- Develop capacity or access existing peer services, which may be provided by OMH Certified Peer Specialists, OASAS Certified Recovery Peer Advocates, or Certified Older Adult Peers services, and may also include community health workers, peer navigator services, or community-based organization volunteer services.
- Utilize technology to increase access to services and support outreach, including the use of telehealth and electronic health monitoring; and
- Use grant budgeted wraparound funding to support aging in place, such as interventions involving minor home modifications to improve safety and security or payments for home care services not eligible under current coverage.

APPLICATION

Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Summary (5 points)
- Population to be Served/Statement of Need (10 points)
- Proposed Program Approach (25 points)
- Organization and Staffing (15 Points)
- Implementation (25 points)
- Financial Assessment (20 points)

Proposals must receive a minimum score of 70 to be considered for funding. In the case of a tie, the proposal with the highest score on the “Proposed Program Approach” section will be considered for funding.

Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by June 16th. Applicants **must** submit a non-binding Letter of Intent to Carol Swiderski at carol.swiderski@omh.ny.gov by June 3rd. OMH anticipates notifying awarded applicants on July 27th. A Q&A document will be posted on the OMH website on May 27th.